ONE DOLLAR A YEAR.

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War, of the Rebellion

OPENING OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

By JOHN McELROY.

VIEW ON OLD JACKSON ROAD AT VICKSBURG.

duttion of gun-caps, of which Pember-Iscendants of Benjamin Franklin and

ton stood in great need. It was quite that she would reach a position where the fashion for a daring young fellow she would enfilled the enemy's rifle-

up to great vigilance, and the nights other batteries, all of which began fir-

were spent in tollsome inspection of staff, occupied a commanding position

every stump and log that flowed down where he could witness the engage-

Port Hudson was held by the seven The fire which the enemy's batteries

gunboats which Porter had taken with opened upon her showed that none of

in April, and these were patrolling the Cincinnati suffered from the disadvan-

stream and making incursions up the tage of moving down stream with the

attempts of Pemberton's to escape. rounded to, to bring her head up

Above Vicksburg one gunboat was sta- stream. As she did so a shot pierced

ment and had his troops under arms to

take advantage of any demoralization

which the gunboat's fire might cause.

their guns had been shifted, but all

were in place and fully manned. The

strong current forcing her along, and

when she came to the position assigned

her for enfilading the rifle-pits she

her side and tore up the shell room. Another ball entered the shell room

below the water line and a third, still

more disastrous, pierced her vulnera-

ble stern and entered the magazine be-

low the water line, causing it to flood

and the vessel to begin to sink. Almost

at the same time a heavy shot tore

through the pilot-house and carried

away the starboard tiller. The enemy

turned all their guns upon her and

tore her light deck to pieces in a few

econds, disabling five of her guns. All

hree flags staffs were shot away, carry-

ing their colors down with them,

but a gallant Quartermaster, named

Frank Bois, ran out from the case-

of the forward staff. Finding his ves-

mate and nailed a flag to the stump

el sinking, Lieut. Bache kept on run-

ning up stream, hugging as closely as

possible the east bank to avoid the fire.

He got in close enough to land a haw-

ser and a plank on which to send the wounded ashore. The hawser slipped

nd the boat drifted again out into

the stream, so that the officers and crew

had to spring overboard and swim for

their lives. She drifted down within

range of the enemy's guns before she

Gen. Sherman's Compliments.

The loss on her was five killed, 14

rounded and 15 missing, supposed to

oe drowned. The excited infantry on

shore cheered wildly the gallant Quar-

termaster as he nailed his flag to the

remaining portion of the staff and a

of the crew. Gen. Sherman sent a com-pany of the 76th Ohio to give what help

t could. He wrote a letter to Commo-

"Inasmuch as you must know all,

have no occasion to report more than

that the style in which the Cincinnati

engaged the batteries elicited universal praise, and I deplore the sad result as

much as any man could. In importance

of the object aimed to be accomplished,

in my judgment, fully warranted the

attempt. It has been unsuccessful, and will stimulate us to further efforts to

dore Porter describing the affair and

escuing party rushed down to the aid

CHAPTER XXXIII.

SIEGE OF VICKSBURG. Plenty of Work for the Navy-Sinking ure by the sides and casemates. This the Cincinnati-Pressing Forward the Approaches-Close Fighting-Dana's

Estimate of the Generals. Commodore Porter had a busy time of it with his flotilla, patrolling the was pierced with 13 guns, three in the river from Cairo to Farragut's fleet at forward end, pointing directly ahead, Port Hudson; helping to drive off the guerrillas who made rushes for the inches of oak, and on the bow protected river banks to catch the heavily-laden still further by two-and-a-half-inch transports; in assisting the garrisons at iron armor. Above the casemate rose various points against raids and as- built of heavy oak and plated in front saults by strong parties, like those at with two-and-a-half-inch iron. When the bank, opened a severe and very an-Milliken's Bend, Lake Providence and the guns, coal and stores were aboard the tributary rivers to embarrass the sel look like a gigantic turtle. Johnston and his granary in the Yazoo he had to picket the river to prevent men passing out and in with communications between Johnston and Pemberton, and particularly to stop the intro- Lieut. George M. Bache, one of the de-

caps, disguise his canoe as a log, and

The river between Vicksburg and

him when the batteries were first passed

tributaries against any advance by

Kirby Smith's forces from the West or

saw Bayou, one at Young's Point, one

dence, one at Greenville, one at Island

Other smaller and swifter boats pa-

guerrilla bands usually had with them

a fieldpiece to bring the transports to.

and it was desirable that a heavy gun

line to be held was very long and the

vessels quite few for the purpose, so

that activity and restlessness had to

like the rest, began regular siege ap-

in front of Gen. Steele's Division, which

estopped siege approaches by being commanded by Fort Hill, the extreme left of the rebel line. There could be

no saps run forward under the guns of

After the repulse of May 27 Sherman.

at Milliken's Bend, one at Lake Provi-

No. 65, and two at White River.

trolled the river as far as Cairo.

be near at hand to cope with this.

make up for the shortage.

such way as to be protected in a measopening was 18 feet wide and 60 feet ong, and as it was not protected at all as well as the rest of the boat made the stern a vitally weak spot. The casemate was a square box with sloping sides to protect the battery and machinery and four on each broadside and two stern guns. The casemate was made of 24 the pilot-house, of conical shape, also

The Cincinnati, which had splendid service in the battle of Memphis, at Arkansas Post and elsewhere

Young's Point, and in expeditions up nearly to the water, and made the vesit brought the casemate deck down enemy and cut off supplies from Joe Cincinnati was armed, as her sisters Johnston and his grapary in the Vazoo were, with old-fashioned navy guns and bottoms. Besides these exacting duties rifled to throw a 70-pound shell.

found profitable employment in constructing these, and some quite elaboron the river, was commanded then by ate residences were dug out, large enough to accommodate whole families, and were fitted up with furniture brought from the houses. The flying fragments of the shells

lines were closed around it.

eemed to penetrate everywhere, and there was one particular piece of sward of considerable extent which was avoided by human beings because of the dangers surrounding it. The the dangers surrounding it. The horses would be tempted upon it by the greenness of the grass, and every day some animal was killed or disabled by a piece of shell and his body furn. by a piece of shell, and his body furnished meat to the garrison. Pressing the Siege.

The sailors shifted three heavy guns,

the town, and under the protection of

noying fire upon the city, which, added

to the shells from the gunboats and the

mortar fleet, made life exceedingly un-

comfortable for the 3,500 civilians, in-

formed the population of Vicksburg and had been shut up in it when the

cluding women and children, who

These had to resort to the refuge of

caves dug in the hillsides. The negroes

By the middle of June the pressure of the siege became sharp and severe upon the defenders. Herron's Division ball's Divisions, under Gen. Washburn, little farther. at Haynes's Bluff. There they fortified the naturally-strong position until it was impregnable against any until June 11, and the work was be-

Washburn should have command of the emy's line. entire force, but Gen. Grant finally to make all the troops on the north and northeast of the city a homogeneous command which could be used en-masse against Johnston. The Confedto get into a canoe at some place on the pits and drive out their defenders. The erate lines were enveloped by fully 12 Yazoo, with some thousands of gun- lincinnati started from up the river at miles of Union lines, on which were kept the sailors on picket duty wrought came within range of Fort Hill and the O Selfridge and Masters C. B. Dahl-

gren and J. F. Reed. The Approaches.

Thayer's approach, which began near had no ditch. The counter-mines for it memorable campaign, and his capture Minn., 12th and 35th Iowa and 33d Mo the crest of a ridge, ran down a slope were, therefore, started from within by and occupation of the city of Atlanta, by Col. S. G. Hill, of the 35th Iowa. toward the enemy and then up the op-posite slope of the ravine toward the ridge on which the enemy had a batmianded by the enemy's guns, which sappers succeeded in getting under the could fire a plunging shot into it, it salient of the redan, and on the 25th presented unusual difficulties. A ditch they exploded a small mine, but the

ing the sap forward, but were in every pelled to retire. Six of our counterinstance driven off. As the head of the miners were buried by this explosion. sap approached the battery Capt. Klos-

The working party threw up a bank to protect them and also dug a large pitwith a runway so that the men could escape this work which were soon detected, to shelter just before it was time to fire and Capt. Kossak started counter-the 15-minute gun. Working in this mines under them. The enemy sprang way the guns were all recovered and placed on the fortifications, where they did splendid service against the rebel ther mining in that direction. A few men were covered with earth and gab-Commodore Porter sent Lieutenant- lons falling upon them, but were not Commander Walker with the Forest seriously hurt. The fighting went on Rose, Linden and Petrel up the Yazoo continuously, with the enemy tossing River to within 15 miles of Fort Pem- over hand-grenades and our men replyberton, at Greenville, which had ing with shells from their wooden proved so effective in stopping the Ya-Coehorn mortars and from a howitzer long by 50 feet wide, and was propelled by a large paddle-wheel placed in the center a little forward of the stern in such way as to be protected in a measthe water's edge. He then turned and in a few yards of a rebel battery, Capt.

went back down the Yazoo, burning a large saw-mill and destroying other property that might be of benefit to the Confederacy, and came to the which had to go much farther because more steamers, which effectually general assault, as the ground behind crippled the means of transportation of the re-entrant was commanded by our the rich supplies in that region to Joe artillery, which would have prevented Johnston. the enemy's massing to repel a charge. This was under the immediate superincluding a 100-pound rifle, to scows, vision of Gen. Ransom, with Capt. A. which they placed close to a point near M. Powell in charge.

Logan's Approach.

The fifth, and most important one in front of McPherson, was Logan's approach. This followed the ridge of the Jackson Road and was directed against a high, commanding battery called by McPherson's men Fort Hill. If it could be taken the enemy could hold no part of his line. Consequently the rebels resisted this approach more vigorously than any other along the whole line. They charged out upon the working party, burned the sap-rollers, drove mines and threw hand-grenaues. The hand-grenades used were six and 12-pound shells, and did an unusual amount of damage. Capt. Andrew Hickenlooper, the Chief Engineer of the Seventeenth Corps, was in immedlate charge.

The sixth was A. J. Smith's approach, which followed generally the line of the Baldwin's Ferry Road.

lines, where a parallel was made to prepare for an assault. The eighth was Hovey's approach

which was not begun until late and directed against a redoubt.

The ninth was Laguan's approach ad completed the line on the south in front of Lauman's Division, and be-

side and effectually closed all ingress gun within 300 yards of the enemy's and egress in that direction. This was lines. It was directed grainst a weak so effective that it was thought unnecessary to add to that portion of the line the two divisions of the Ninth Corps coming from Kentucky, which had been at first designed to occupy the position. They were sent instead to folin Wm. Sooy Smith's and Kim.

force that Johnston was likely to move gun several days later and pushed for-against it. It was at first intended that ward to within 100 yards of the en-

Countervalling Beorts. Maj. S. H. Lockett, who was the Confederate Engineer in charge of the de-fenses of Vicksburg, gives this account of what he was able to do in resisting the approaches of the Union engineers: Cincinnati started from up the river at 7 o'clock in the morning of May 27 with the Price, Benton, Mound City and Carondelet steaming up from beand Carondelet steaming up from float down the Mississippi on some dark and Carondelet steaming up from beand rainy night to Vicksburg. Unqueslow at the same time to engage the which were brought ashore from the water betteries which might take a flotilla and distributed along the line. tionably a great many succeeded in this water batteries which might take a fotilla and distributed along the line water batteries which might take a fotilla and distributed along the line water batteries which might take a fotilla and distributed along the line water batteries which might take a fotilla and distributed along the line water batteries which might take a fotilla and distributed along the line water batteries which might take a fotilla and distributed along the line water batteries which might take a fotilla and distributed along the line water batteries which was thought they would do the best service. These were under the best service. These were under the best service. These were under the battle was fought, and the battle was fought. The battle was fought which was fought and the battle was fought, and the battle was fought. The battle was fought and the battle was fought and the battle was fought. The battle was fought and the battle was fought and the battle was fought. The battle was fought and the battle was fought and the battle was fought. The battle was fought and the battle was fought and the battle was fought. The battle was fought and roller, and thus set it on fire. Thus the enemy's sappers were exposed and forced to leave their sap and begin a trai West during the Autumn months the loth Minn., 72d and 95th Ohio, 114th Ill. and 93d Ind., and an Illinois There were 10 principal approaches new one some distance back. After of 1864. directly against the enemy's works, and this they kept their sap-rollers wet, which were called after the names of forcing us to other expedients. Our the brigade or division commanders next effort was counter-mining. From who furnished the guards and working the ditches of all the threatened works

counter-mines were started on the night The first of these, beginning from the of the 13th of June. The 3d La. redan ight of the Union line, was called was located on a very narrow ridge and As this ran down a slope com- this work was completed the Federal six feet deep was dug and covered as it charge was too small to do much damprogressed, with bundles of cane, sometimes re-enforced by dirt, and which of the redan, and made what the Fedwere strong enough to resist musket erals thought was a practicable breach. balls. For some reason the enemy did Into it they poured in strong force as not fire upon it with artillery, proba-bly because the sharpshooters kept the itself. But they were met by a deadly runners under cover. Several times, volley from our men posted behind the however, the rebels came outside their retrenchments prepared for this emerworks to attack those who were push- gency, and after heavy loss were com-

"On the same day we exploded two of

COMMUNICATING WITH THE FLEET AT VICKSBURG.

THE UNION APPROACHES ON THE RELEAST VICKSBURG.

The union Approaches of the second was called Ewing's approached as a letter to Co. Edward Higgins who commanded the "two fatter and the selection of the share away to be placed on other portage away to be placed

terman, who superintended the work, detected the sounds under him of the enemy's sup-rollers, filled the sounds under him of the stroyed the enemy's sup-rollers, filled up their saps, and forced them to abanup, and immediately he started a don a parallel very close to our line.

MINNESOTA AT NASHVILLE.

More of Her Soldiers There Than in Any Other Battle, and More Fell There in Defense of Their Country.

This paper has been prepared in response to the solicitation of many old

Thomas Heading Off Hood. Thomas had assembled the troops as

signed him by Sherman and disposed of veterans of our State, survivors of the them in a manner to watch Hood's tles of Nashville, in December, 1864, who have felt that a record somewhat who have felt that a record somewhat campaign, and now numbered together looks like the McClellan and Rosecrans mouth of the Big Sunflower River, it was aimed against a re-entrant of which he ascended 180 miles and destroyed, or caused to be destroyed, four this would be of the greatest use in the by Minnesota troops in that important and Georgia and a few new regiments more in detail than any yet furnished about 22,000 men. To this force was by Minnesota troops in that important that had occupied outposts in Tennessee and Georgia, and a few new regiments event of the civil war. While I have that had recently been sent to Nashville been, myself, impressed in this behalf, from the North. The aggregate of the had hoped the service might come forces under Gen. Thomas's command from hands more able to do the subject of Hood, and even a considerable part of these were not available for the im-Minnesota had more of her troops mediate emergency, as outlying fortified sibly have to abandon the line of the represented, and gave more of her sons positions, of which Murfreesboro was

started from City Point, Va., but received news in Washington that arrested his further progress west. In each case the orders were held in abeyance, as advices came from Thomas in explanation of his delay.

The Impatient Authorities.

To make this condition more apparent, and also to disclose the great importance of the situation as it impressed the Government and the country at the time, I here quote some of the more important dispatches that passed between Washington, City Point and Nashville bearing upon this phase of the situation:

"Washington, Dec. 2, 1864.

"Lieut.-Gen. Grant, City Point: "The President feels solicitous about strategy of do nothing and let the enemy raid the country. The President wishes you to consider the matter. "Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War."

"City Point, Va., Dec. 2, 1864. Maj.-Gen. Geo. H. Thomas, Nashville: "If Hood is permitted to remain quietly about Nashville we will lose all the roads back to Chattanooga and pos-Tennessee River. Should he attack you it is all well, but if he does not you hould attack him before he fortifies. "U. S. Grant, Lieutenant-General."

"City Point, Va., Dec. 2. 1864. 'Maj.-Gen. Geo. H. Thomas, Nashville: "After the repulse of Hood at Franklin, it looks to me that instead of falling back to Nashville, we should have taken the offensive against the enemy, but at this distance may err as to the method of dealing with the enemy. You will suffer incalculable injury upon your railroads if Hood is not speedily disposed of. Put forth, therefore, every possible exertion to attain this end. should you get him to retreating, give

"U. S. Grant, Lieutenant-General." "Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 2, 1864. Gen. U. S. Grant, City Point, Va.: "Your two telegrams of 11 a. m. and 1:30 p. m. to-day received. At the time Hood was whipped at Franklin I had at this place but about 5,000 men of Gen. Smith's command, which, added to the force under Gen. Schofield, would not have given me more than 25,000 men. Besides, Gen. Schofield felt convinced that he could not hold the enemy at Franklin until the 5,000 could reach him. As Gen. Wilson's cavalry force numbered only about one-fourth that of Forrest, I thought it best to draw the troops back to Nashville and await the arrival of the remainder of Gen. Smith's force, and also a force of about 5,000 commanded by Gen. Steedman, which I ordered up from Chatta-Such reinforcements as were avail- offensive if I had more cavalry, and

remembered that my command was made up of the two weakest corps of Gen. Sherman's army, and all the dis have enabled Hood to take advantage of my crippled condition. I earnestly hope, however, in a few days more I shall be able to give him a fight. "Geo. H. Thomas, Major-General Com-

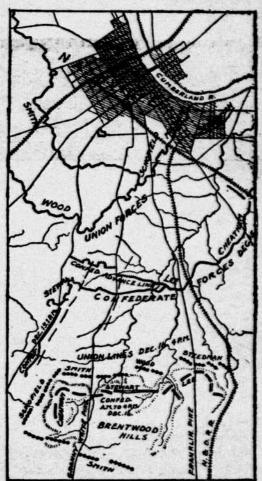
manding." "City Point, Va., Dec. 6, 1864. 'Maj.-Gen. Geo. H. Thomas, Nashvillet "Attack Hood at once and wait no longer for your cavalry. There is great danger in delay resulting in a campaign back to the Ohio.

"U. S. Grant, Lieutenant-General."

"Nashville, Dec. 6, 1864. "Lieut.-Gen. U. S. Grant, City Point: "Your dispatch of 4 p. m. this day received. I wili make the necessary dispositions, and attack Hood at once, agreeably to your orders, though I believe it will be hazardous with the small force of cavalry now at my service. "Geo. H. Thomas, Major-General Commanding."

"Washington, Dec. 7, 1864. "Lieut.-Gen. Grant: "Thomas seems unwilling to attack because it is hazardous, as if all war was anything but hazardous. If he waits for Wilson to get ready Gabriel will be blowing his last horn. "Edwin M. Stanton."

"City Point, Va., Dec. 8, 1864. 'Maj.-Gen. Halleck, Washington: "Please direct Gen. Dodge to send all the troops he can spare to Gen. Thomas.





as a sacrifice to the country, in the bat- the most important, could not safely be s

battery, was commanded by Col. W. L.

McMillen, of the 95th Ohio. The Sec-

ond Brigade, composed of the 5th and

and 2d Mo. Battery, was commanded

Gen. Smith's two divisions were given

steadily advanced northward without

roads parallel with Hood's advance, and

reached Franklin, on the Harpeth Riv-

er, where the roads converged, ahead

Thomas had ordered Schofield to dis-

pute Hood's passage of the Harpeth,

mediately attacked by Hood. Here on-

curred on Nov. 80 one of the most

desperate and bloody encounters for the

numbers engaged that is recorded in

the history of the rebellion. Hood made

several desperate assaults on Schoffeld's

intrenched lines, and suffered much

punishment in their repeated repulse.

Schofield's losses were also considerable,

but he accomplished the purpose of

holding Hood's army at bay for the

moment, and gave Thomas more time,

which was most essential, to enable

him to strengthen his position at Nash-

ville and gather the reinforcements within his reach. Schofield leisurely

retired to Nashville, followed by Hood

who soon recovered his wonted audacity

sufficiently to present a bold and de-

Thomas's defenses, Dec. 4, 1864.

flant front upon his arrival before

position at Nashville, and was in condi-

tion to make a successful defensive

ready, with his inferior numbers, to take the offensive, and hence awaited

fight, but he felt that he was hardly

ceeded to intrench their front.

tle of Nashville than in any other bat- abandoned. tle of the civil war. Four of her regiments were prominently identified with
the notable achievements of that memthe notable achievements of that memorable victory of the Union arms, and all won much credit for the young Commonwealth that sent them forth.

It is the purpose of this paper to deal sourt.

specially with the record of Minnesota Attached to this command were the he approaches of the Union engineers: organizations in the battle of Nashville, 5th, 7th, 9th and 10th Minn. This force, "By the 8th of June, in spite of all and will not seek to present a compre- which was designated in Gen. Thomas's and will not seek to present a compre-hensive description of the battle itself or of the campaign of which it was the relative from St. Lewis wis the ping has met with many delays, which decisive culmination; yet it will be nec- Mississippi, Ohio and Cumberland Riv-

The objects of Gen. Sherman's advance from Chattanooga to Atlanta had the 2d Iowa Battery, was commanded been accomplished by his successive de- by Col. L. F. Hubbard, of the 5th Minn. feats of the Confederate forces in that The Third Brigade, composed

While Sherman was making his arposition on the right of the line of derangements preliminary to his next fense, with which Gen. Thomas had campaign, which contemplated the enveloped Nashville, and at once promovement of his army on its celebrated posed him, now commanded by Gen J. B. Hood, remained for a time somewhat inactive, while its shattered units were being reorganized and to some extent recruited. Before Sherman was ready to cut loose from his base, however, Hood resumed active operations. the Twenty-third and Fourth Corps Sherman's long line of railroad com-munications presented a vulnerable fea-munications presented a vulnerable fea-munications presented a vulnerable fea-munications presented a vulnerable fea-munications presented a vulnerable feamuch enterprise in his efforts to make Sherman's position at Atlanta precariants force retired toward Nashville on Sherman's position at Atlanta precarious, or at least uncomfortable, by freon and the occasional capture of small garrisons in occupation of protecting tended to cross that stream. Gen. outposts. While making these forays, Hood steadily moved toward the Ten-nessee River, his purpose, as it develpped, being to draw Sherman away from Atlanta in pursuit, hoping thus to neu-intrenched his position, which was imtralize or defeat the objects gained by Sherman in his recent great campaign. The situation presented puzzling problems of a serious nature. If Sherman was to follow Hood with an adequate force, he must greatly weaken his position at Atlanta, secured at so great a cost, as he would doubtless be drawn away from within supporting distance of any force he might leave in occupation of that place. The alternative to

this was to abandon his base and its communications and enter upon his contemplated campaign, leaving Hood to be looked after by such forces as could be hurriedly assembled by Gen. George H. Thomas, who had recently been assigned to command the Department of the Cumberland, with headquarters at Nashville, Tenn. Sherman obtained, as is well known. the reluctant consent of the authorities

ter plan, and after detaching the Fourth tered detachments of other troops then

at Army Headquarters to adopt the lat-